

**PUBLIC HEARING RE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Bobby Berriault
February 15, 2013

Representatives and Senators on the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Bobby Berriault and I am writing to your committee today to submit written testimony with regards to Governor Malloy's proposed budget that would cut funds to the State Department of Mental Health and Addition Services and to the State Department of Public Health.

I feel that this is the wrong time to make any cuts to our state's mental health services. A large portion of our state's population depends on the various mental health services that are provided and funded by our state government so that they can continue to succeed in their daily lives and prosper in their communities that they live in. These budget cuts will affect real people who depend on these vitally important services: services such as the \$280,000 that will be cut to legal aid for the poor and the disabled. Without this service, how will the poor and disabled in this state be able to continue to defend their legal rights? The Governor's budget also proposed a cut of \$2.7 million dollars to the states school-based health centers which provides primary health and mental health services to children in our states primary and secondary schools located in mostly urban areas in our state. The Governor's budget proposal also eliminates funding which would have been used for research which was to be conducted by the Connecticut Mental Health Center so that they can continue to improve the lives of those living with mental health concerns by providing them with new methods of treatment. Furthermore, these cuts in the Governor's budget will be permanent.

Today, I am asking that the Appropriations committee oppose these budgetary cuts. If these cuts take effect, these proposed budget cuts would have a negative impact to our friends, our neighbors, and those who call the State of Connecticut their home.

However, I would like to recognize that the Governor's proposed budget does increase funding to other mental health services. The governor's budget adds additional funding to programs such as the Young Adult Services, his budget increases the amount of supportive housing that is being currently offered in our state, and it adds an increase of funds to other vitally important programs such as Home and Community Base Services among others. I do support the Governor's proposed budget in this regard.

I would like to take the time to thank the committee for their consideration of my submitted testimony.

Thanks again;

Bobby Berriault

Member of Join Rise Be
Making recovery an option for every young person in the state of Connecticut
2join2rise2be@gmail.com